


PRE-APPEAL BRIEF REQUEST FOR REVIEW		Docket Number (Optional) 1324.68565							
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Application Number 10/691,461	Filed October 22, 2003								
First Named Inventor Toshihiro Suzuki									
Art Unit 2629	Examiner Boddie, William								
<p>Applicant requests review of the final rejection in the above-identified application. No amendments are being filed with this request.</p> <p>This request is being filed with a notice of appeal.</p> <p>The review is requested for the reason(s) stated on the attached sheet(s). Note: No more than five (5) pages may be provided.</p>									
<p>I am the</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <input type="checkbox"/> applicant/inventor. <input type="checkbox"/> assignee of record of the entire interest. See 37 CFR 3.71. Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is enclosed. (Form PTO/SB/96) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> attorney or agent of record. Registration number <u>41,895</u> <input type="checkbox"/> attorney or agent acting under 37 CFR 1.34. Registration number if acting under 37 CFR 1.34 _____ </div> <div style="width: 45%; text-align: center;">  Signature B. Joe Kim _____ Typed or printed name (312) 360-0080 _____ Telephone number May 17, 2010 _____ Date </div> </div>									

This collection of information is required by 35 U.S.C. 132. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11, 1.14 and 41.6. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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1324.68565

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Toshihiro Suzuki et al.
Serial No.: 10/691,461
Conf. No.: 7326
Filed: October 22, 2003
For: LIGHT SOURCE DEVICE AND
DISPLAY HAVING THE SAME
Art Unit: 2629
Examiner: Boddie, William

PRE-APPEAL BRIEF REQUEST FOR REVIEW

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants request a pre-appeal brief review of the rejection of the pending claims in the above-identified application based upon the attached remarks.

Respectfully submitted,

May 17, 2010

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By



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PRE-APPEAL BRIEF REQUEST FOR REVIEW

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claims 20-23 as being unpatentable over Nakabayashi et al. (US 6,379,017) in view of Kuratomi et al. (US 6,791,566). Of the pending claims, claim 20 is the only independent claim. Claims 24 and 25 have been canceled in Amendment I filed on May 14, 2010.

I. The Examiner has Failed to Make a *Prima Facie* Case of Obviousness Because Not All the Claimed Features are Disclosed or Suggested in the Cited References.

A. The Nakabayashi et al. reference fails to disclose or suggest that the curved reflecting surface is formed so that light is reflected totally on the curved reflecting surface.

As described in claim 20, the curved reflecting surface is formed so that the light incident from the one side end face is reflected totally on the curved reflecting surface of a neighborhood of the first light source (the one side end face), and the light incident from the other side end face is reflected totally on the curved reflecting surface of a neighborhood of the second light source (the other side end face). The claimed curved reflecting surface is shown below in annotated Fig. 7. The light from the light source LA' is reflected on the curved reflecting surface in the neighborhood of the light source LA' (the "B" region), and the light from the light source LB' is totally reflected in the neighborhood of the light source LB' (the "A" region).

FIG.7 (annotated)

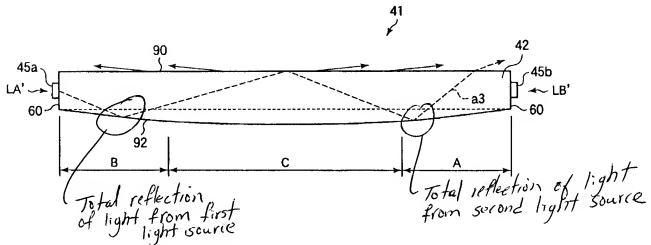


Figure 14 of Nakabayashi et al. is cited in the Office Action as disclosing the feature in which the incident light is reflected totally on the curved reflecting surface. However, neither Fig. 14 nor its corresponding description in the specification disclose or suggest that the incident light is reflected totally on the curved reflecting surface. Figure 14 of Nakabayashi et al. is reproduced below.

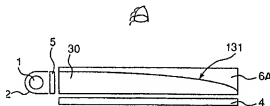


Fig. 14 of Nakabayashi

The figure shows that the curved slope 131 is the surface through which the light exits the light guide member 30, and therefore, do not totally reflect light. In fact, the reference teaches that in an arrangement in which a reflecting plate 4 is provided below a

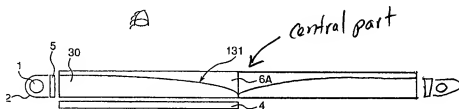
light guide member, the light from the light source 1 exits the light guide member 30 through both of the opposite surfaces (i.e., the curved slope 131 and the flat side opposite the slope), towards the reflection plate 4 on the flat side and also towards the observer on the sloped side. Light reflecting from the reflecting plate 4 re-enters the light guide member 30 and exits through the slope 131 of the light guide member ("Light outputted for illumination from the light guide member 3 illuminates the reflecting plate 4, and turns back as reflected light. The reflected light comes incident again on the light guide member 3 from its bottom surface, and is outputted from the top surface of the light of the light guide member 3" (col. 9, lines 62-67)).

If, as suggested in the Office Action, the two light guide members 203 in Fig. 23C of Nakabayashi were replaced with the light guide member 30 of Fig. 14, the resulting device would have lights from the light sources 212 and 211 exiting through the curved slope, as taught in Fig. 14 of the reference. Accordingly, the combined embodiments would not include a curved reflecting surface formed so that the light incident from the side end faces are reflected totally on the curved reflecting surface, as called for in claim 20.

- B. *The Nakabayashi reference also does not disclose or suggest that the thickness of the light guide plate is smaller at both side end faces and becomes greater in a central part thereof.*

Figure 14 of Nakabayashi et al. teaches that the thickness of the light guide member 30 becomes smaller away from the light source 1. Thus, if the light guide member 30 of Fig. 14 were combined with the light guide member 203 shown in Fig. 23C of

Nakabayashi, the two ends that join would be the portions away from their respective light sources. The place where the two ends join would also be the central part of the combined light guide members. The suggested combination would likely result in an arrangement shown below.



As clearly shown in the combined light guide member, the thickness of the central part would be smaller than the ends where the light sources are provided. Therefore, the combination suggested in the Office Action would not include the claimed curved reflecting surface which is formed so that the thickness of the light guide plate is smaller at both end faces and becomes greater in a central part thereof, as required in the claim. The claims are believed to be allowable for this reason also.

II. Conclusion

For the reasons given above, Applicants respectfully request that this Pre-Appeal Review Request be sustained, and that the application be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

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May 17, 2010

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